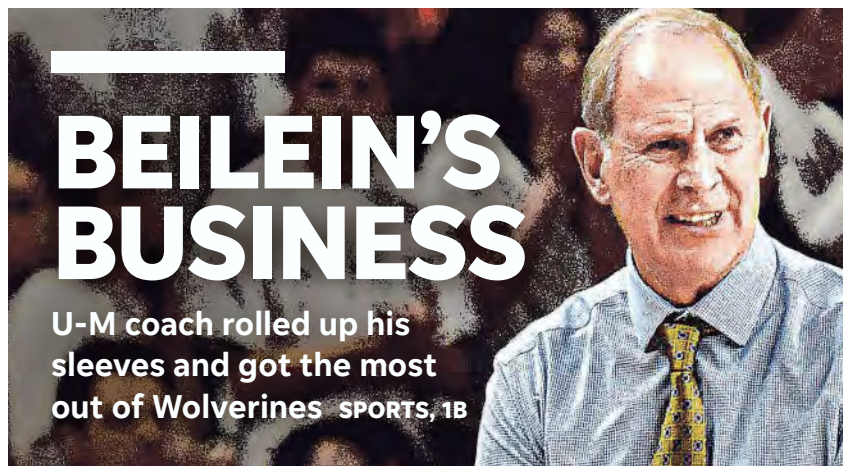
Bridges paid $40 to regain eligibility

SPORTS, 1B



BEILEIN'S BUSINESS

U-M coach rolled up his sleeves and got the most out of Wolverines SPORTS, 1B

ON GUARD FOR 186 YEARS

Detroit Free Press

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2018 ▫ FREEP.COM

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BUSINESS, 10A

FCA exec a hero at crash scene

Ralph Gilles used his Jeep to push a burning SUV away from others.

SPORTS, 1B

Wings trade Tatar for picks

Las Vegas sends Detroit 3 draft picks, including a 2018 first-rounder.

NATION+WORLD, 6A

Poll: Americans trust Mueller

When it comes to Russia, people trust Mueller more than President Trump.

Inside today's Free Press

▫ Obituaries 8-9A
▫ Classified 8B
▫ Comics 2C
▫ Puzzles 4-5C

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4 MACOMB COMMUNITIES LOOK AT FIRE MERGER

Sharing public services to save

Waterford Fire Department probationary engineer Andrew Bartal puts a fire suit in place at Waterford Fire Department Station 1 after making a run on Feb. 16. RYAN GARZA/DETROIT FREE PRESS

Christina Hall Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

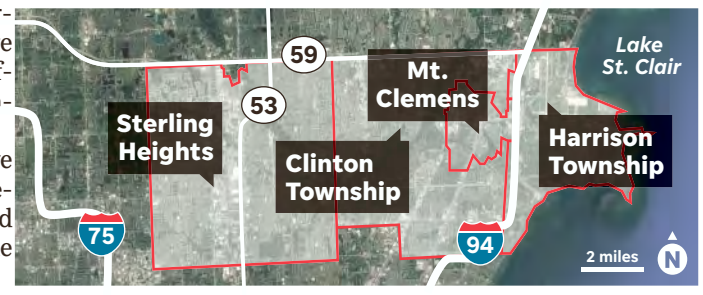
A consulting firm has recommended Sterling Heights and three other Macomb County communities consolidate fire services —a move that would impact more than a quarter-million residents — but officials say a full merger would be an expensive venture.

Other metro Detroit communities have consolidated fire services with mixed results in recent years, including Waterford and Pontiac in Oakland County, Wayne

See FIRE MERGER, Page 7A

What the study recommended

The years-long study by TriData LLC recommended the fire services merge into a single department serving Sterling Heights and Mt. Clemens and Clinton and Harrison townships.



SOURCES: TRIDATA LLC, GOOGLE MAPS DETROIT FREE PRESS

Joe Louis developer: Hotel not best choice

Lawsuit asks for delay in redevelopment plans

JC Reindl Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former City of Detroit creditor is suing for more time to devise a plan for reusing the site of now-empty Joe Louis Arena, and perhaps build something there other than a big riverfront hotel.

A development firm controlled by the former creditor, New York-based Financial Guaranty Insurance Co., on Monday filed the lawsuit, which seeks a two-year extension to the fall 2017 deadline for it to submit a redevelopment plan to the city for The Joe.

The firm says it needs the time extension because, among other reasons, the development it was contractually obligated to build on the arena site — a "first-class" hotel with up to 30 floors and at least 300 rooms — may no longer be the best idea. Numerous other Detroit hotels have opened recently and the location isn't so great, the firm says.

Financial Guaranty says city officials refused its requests for two years of extra time, and would only agree to 180 days. The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Derek Donnelly, senior managing director for Financial Guaranty, told the Free Press that he didn't know why city officials would not grant the extra time.

"We had what we thought was a cooperative, productive relationship with the city," Donnelly said in a phone interview. "Then all of the sudden something changed, and we're not sure what it is. We are very frustrated."

Financial Guaranty accepted future ownership and development rights to the Joe Louis Arena property in exchange for swallowing big losses during Detroit's 2013-14 municipal bankruptcy. It ultimately got roughly 13 cents on the dollar for its $1.1-billion claim against the city.

See JOE LOUIS, Page 3A

DACA recipients cheer high court decision

Niraj Warikoo Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Immigrants and their supporters cheered the Supreme Court's decision Monday to not hear an appeal of a federal court case involving those who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, but they acknowledged that it was only a temporary victory.

"This is great news, but it's important that people understand how limited the great news is," said Susan Reed, Managing Attorney of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, who has helped about 500 immigrants apply for DACA. "It doesn't mean that DACA is safe forever."

For Juan Gonzalez, 24, a DACA recipient who studies at Wayne State University, the ruling means he can get more time to finish his degree and continue working to help pay his tuition.

See DACA, Page 9A

Inside

Supreme Court angrily debates public union fees.

Business, Page 10A

The Gordie Howe entrance of the Joe Louis Arena on Feb. 2. Once the arena is torn down, it is to be redeveloped. RYAN GARZA/DFP